

Appln No. 10/781,101
Amdt date November 8, 2007
Reply to Office action of August 8, 2007

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 3, 6-7, 10, and 13-17 are currently pending in this application. Claims 3, 6, 7, 10, 13, and 14-16 have been amended. Claims 1-2, 4-5, 8-9, and 11-12 have been canceled. The amendments find full support in the original specification, claims, and drawings. No new matter has been added. In view of the above amendments and remarks that follow, reconsideration and an early indication of allowance of the now pending claims 3, 6-7, 10, and 13-17 are respectfully requested.

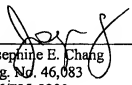
Claims 1-2, 4-5, 8-9, and 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Onishi (U.S. Patent No. 7,113,629). However, the Examiner indicated that claims 3, 6-7, 10, and 13-14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicant has amended claims 3, 6-7, 10, and 13-14 to include the limitations of the corresponding base claims. Amendments have also been made to these claims to ensure that the claim limitations have proper antecedent basis.

Claims 15-17 stand allowed. Claims 15 and 16 were amended to ensure that the claim limitations have antecedent basis.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration and an early indication of allowance of the now-pending claims 3, 6-7, 10, and 13-17 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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